A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, October 16. 1711.

I Am enter'd upon a large Field, and difficult to move in; Launch'd out into a vast Ocean full of Rocks and Shoals, and full of Variety of Dangers: *Party-Pyrates* and Storms of Strife, disturb the Surface; and if I fall upon *High-Church* Rocks, or *Low-Church* Shoals, my Arguments may suffer Shipwreck on both Hands, I'll steer as steady as I can, if I get safe through, without Reproach, Cavil, and Exception, it will be strange.

One tells me I am for giving away *Spain*, by a *Partition Treaty*; I say I am for a Partition Treaty, to prevent giving away the *Spanish Monarchy*: As I said always I say now, it is not a New Argument: *Spain* must be given neither to the King of *France* nor to the Emperor; if either of these enjoy *Spain*, *Exorbitant Power* goes with it; I speak now, either of the Kingdom of *Spain* abstractly so, or of the whole, which you will.

But, says an Objector, King *William*, whose Character you applaud so much, gave

gave *Spain* to the Emperor in the *Partition-Treaty*, which you also cry up; This is false in Fact; King *William* adjudg'd *Spain* and the *Indies* to the House of *Austria*, that is, to King *Charles* III.; and I can of my own Knowledge assure you, it was upon a Supposition only of the House of *Austria* being divided into two Branches: For this Reason, the Arch-Duke *Charles*, now King *Charles* III. was Selected by that Treaty to the Crown of *Spain*; but had there been no such Person as K. *Charles*, it would have been one of the the last Things King *William* had done in the World, to have given the Crown of *Spain* to the Emperor: I have had the Honour to hear his Majesty speak of these Things at large, and I appeal to all those Noble Persons now living, who were near the King at that Time, who, I believe, often heard him express himself with great Caution, as to the giving too much to the Empire, as equally Dangerous to the publick Peace, with giving it to *France*: But the Uniting the Kingdoms of *Spain* with the Empire was not then in view; the House of *Austria* had two Heads living at that Time, to whom the *Austrian* Dominions being divided, *viz. Germany, &c.* to the Emperor, and *Spain, &c.* to King *Charles* III. that Article of Power became just what it was before; so that the Partition was Just, and answer'd every End for which it was design'd.

We are now at a Crisis, wherein this Matter appears with a new Face; the House of *Austria* has but one Head, the present King *Charles* III. King of *Spain*, we have declar'd him, and now he is suppos'd to be Elected Emperor: There is not a Man in *England* that ever I met with, when the late Emperor was alive, but would own, it was not fit to give the Monarchy of *Spain* to the same Person who was Emperor; and when I was sometimes giving my Thoughts that Way, I was always answer'd, and that by some Persons of Honour, and for whose Judgment I have a great regard, thus; *It is true, That* Spain *and the* Empire *ought no more to be United, than* Spain *and* France; *But why should we talk of it now? No body is going to Unite them, the Emperor is not dead nor like to die, and both may have Children, and are likely to have Children; Why should we amuse our selves with that? The present Business is to keep it from a Union with* France: And with these Arguments, as very Just and Good, I acquiesc'd. But now the Crisis is come, and I must say, with the Opinion of the Honourable Persons I speak of, and I hope with their Approbation of the Justice of it; We ought no more to give up *Spain* to the Emperor, than to the King of *France*; I would not be misunderstood here, that I mean we should rather give it up to *France*; but I am plain, and cannot be charg'd with a *double Entendre* in this Case; I say, neither of them ought ever to have it; so that the Crown of *Spain* ought never to come to the Possession of either, so as that either of them should be Governour or Sovereign, either of *Spain* and the *Empire*, or *Spain* and *France* at the same Time.

This appears also not to be my Notion alone, but the Notion of the whole *Spanish* Nation; since, when the late Emperor *Leopold*, Marryed his first Wife, who was the Daughter of *Philip* the IV. King of *Spain*; the *Spaniards* oblig'd

oblig'd her to Renounce all Claim to the Succeſſion of the Crown of *Spain* for herſelf, or for the Children born of her Body in that Marriage, as formerly they did *Maria Thereſia* of *Spain*, her other Siſter, who was afterwards Married to the preſent King of *France*: It may be true, that they did not ſo Solemnly demand a Renunciation of the Succeſſion of the Emperor, as they did of the King of *France* at the Treaty of *Vincennes*, but that may not alter the Caſe.

I might enter here into a long Hiſtorical Deduction, of the Greatneſs of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and how dangerous it was to *Europe*, when by a like Conjunction of *Spain* and the *Empire*, under *Charles* V. juſtly call'd *Charles* the Great, it was bidding fair for the Univerſal Monarchy of *Europe*: I might ſhew you how formidable, even *Philip* II. of *Spain* was after it, altho' the Empire was then divided from him, and how *Ferdinand* II. and *Philip*, went Hand in Hand, to Overthrow and Extirpate the Intereſt of the Proteſtant Religion in *Europe*, and how near they were to effect it: How King *Philip*, by means of the Holy League, and by the Faction of the *Guiſes* in *France*, had, in a manner, *France* in his Hands, was twice Maſter of *Paris*, and had the Duke *de Main* yielded to it, had had the *Infanta* of *Spain* declar'd Queen of *France*; at the ſame Time he had Conquer'd *Portugal*, and United it and the *Braſils* to his Crown, and having provided his Invincible *Armada* for the Conqueſt of *England*, if he had ſucceeded, he had been Maſter of all the Weſtern Part of *Europe*.

Of the Greatneſs of the Emperor, and his Oppreſſions of the Proteſtants in *Germany*, I need ſay nothing now; God rais'd up three Princes to break the Exorbitant *Auſtrian* Greatneſs, of which I ſhall ſpeak in my next: I'll alſo, in my next, let you ſee what kind of a Prince your New Emperor would be, if you were, by a Treaty, to give him the Monarchy of *Spain*, as ſome People would now have it done, and perhaps when they ſee it, they will conſider better of the Matter, and join with me in this, That it is too much Power to be put in one Hand, and would over-ballance and endanger the whole.

ADVERTISEMENT.

IT is expected that a Bill to prevent Clandeſtine Marriages under a ſevere Corporal Penalty, will be brought in very early next Seſſion of Parliament. For which 'tis ſaid too juſt Occaſion has been given by a Diſcovery lately made, That Lay-men have been ſuffer'd to marry at the Queen's-Bench, and that *John Sojeans*, who now Acts there again as Clark, has forg'd Certificates of pretended Marriages, for which he keeps Regiſter-Books with Blanks almoſt in every Page, whereby very Miſchievous Frauds are practicable. For prevention whereof, the late Chaplain laboured hard with the moſt proper Perſon, to command the ſaid Books out of the Clark's Cuſtody; and not prevailing, reſign'd the Office, which he had diſcharg'd among the Priſoners both in the Houſe and in the Rules above five Years Charitably, having never receiv'd one Farthing of the Fees thereto annex'd.

William Tipping.

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Printed for and ſold by *John Baker* at the *Black-Boy* *Paſter-Noſter-Row*. 1711.